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## CHC says no to EPA money

The Community Health Center board of directors voted unanimously Tuesday night to not receive the settlement money from a lawsuit between W.R. Grace and the Environmental Protection Agency.

There have been frequent meetings in recent weeks between the CHC board, the directors of the Center for Asbestos Related Disease, St. John's Lutheran Hospital and private citizens on who should

receive the \$2.75 million.

The money is intended to cover medical costs for people with asbestos-related disease, which may not be covered by Grace's medical plan.

"We have a very full plate getting up and running," said CHC director and organizer Laura Sedler. "If we had been in operation for two to three years it may have been different."

She said the board discussed the issue Tuesday and voted 9-

0 with two members absent.

Grace and the EPA reached a \$2.75 million settlement last fall in an access dispute involving the company's former vermiculite mine near Libby.

"On Oct. 25, the CHC board was asked by the EPA if we were interested in becoming the 501(3)c to receive the \$2.75 million settlement money," Sedler said. "All we said in October was we were interested."